

SEATTLE CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

April 1998

VOLUME 35, NO. 4

Office of Redress Administration Update

Last payouts in April and June; railroad workers in; Latin American Japanese on hold

by *Cherry Kinoshita*

ORA is not planning to come to Seattle for a redress workshop in May, as there does not appear to be many cases pending in this area. Any individual needing ORA assistance should contact the JACL PNW District Office at 623-6088.

Processing of some 300 payments is currently under way, which should be ready for an end of April payout. This total will include possibly 150 railroad workers, some from Hawaii, some Ishida cases, other cases which might have been pending completion of documentation. Checks should reach recipients early May.

Tentatively, there is planned another payout in June, and then possibly the very last payout in August, just before the closing date of August 10, 1998. There will be no extension of time; the doors of ORA will close as of August 10, 1998.

Railroad Workers

Clarification of eligibility: Family members of railroad workers are eligible in their own right if they were members of the household at the time the railroad worker was fired and forced to move (whether or not the railroad worker himself was not alive on Aug. 10, 1988). However, heirs (children born afterwards) are not eligible as heirs if the railroad worker was not alive on Aug. 10, 1988.

Latin American Japanese

Settlement talks on the Mochizuki vs. U.S. case stalled on March 18 when Dept. of Justice officials failed to make an offer to the Latin American Japanese. Carmen Mochizuki filed a suit in 1996 to seek redress for thousands of Latin American Japanese who were denied eligibility for redress. Over a month ago, government attorneys had asked for a delay in court ruling so they could consider settlement, but no settlement offer materialized. Chief Judge Loren Smith is expected to announce his ruling on April 13.

List of Unknowns

ORA may make one more effort to track down the roughly 2,000 names on WRA lists whose whereabouts are unknown. Unless additional information can be found, they will end the search.

President's message

National JACL Board supports campaign against anti-affirmative action ballot initiative

by *Janice Yee*

On March 28, board delegate Jeffrey Hattori, president-elect Sharon Sobie and I went to the National JACL board meeting to make an impassioned plea for help. We brought with us a letter signed by the Seattle, Olympia, Anchorage, Puyallup Valley, Lake Washington, Portland, Spokane Chapter presidents, PNW District governor and Representative Kip Tokuda outlining our commitment to affirmative action, and our contributions in excess of \$10,000. We asked the national board to match our collective resources with \$20,000 for the purpose of mobilizing the Asian Pacific Islander community statewide in defending affirmative action, which is threatened by the ballot measure Initiative 200.

We praised them for their past leadership in fighting for our civil rights. We reminded the board of their commitment to affirmative action in their 1996-1998 program for action and the national significance of Washington's initiative. We asked for their help. They extended their hand to the tune of \$5,000.

This was the most they could allocate to an unbudgeted line item without asking the national council. We are grateful for their support and we are also counting on them to hold fast to their commitment to identify other resources to augment the \$5,000 (e.g., spearheading a fund drive through the Pacific Citizen to address affirmative action at the national level).

We have been working in coalition with the No 200! campaign and the Asian Pacific American Coalition for Equality (APACE) to reach out to the community, to raise funds, and to educate. We are moving ahead, as evidenced by the \$15,000 APACE has raised exclusive of JACL's contributions. However, we cannot do it alone. Please join us in this fight. For more information about APACE or No 200!, please contact Karen Yoshitomi, Pacific Northwest District Director, at

Board member notes

- When Jeffrey Hattori was working as a janitor for Keiro nursing home, kicking back with the seniors, he never dreamed he might someday become the Administrator for Keiro Nursing Home.

After 15 years of work, school and community activism, Jeffrey Hattori will be the new Administrator for Keiro Nursing Home effective April 17.

Not only does Jeffrey have a new job, he's being recognized for all his hard work on behalf of the Japanese American and Asian community. On May 20, Jeffrey will receive an International Examiner Community Voice Award at their annual Awards Dinner. Congratulations Jeffrey!

- Louis Watanabe joined our board this year, and already is taking on a new role in the community. Louis is now the manager of the Northwest Asian American Theater! Congratulations, Louis! We're looking forward to your exciting new productions!

Common Questions About Affirmative Action

Why do we need affirmative action?

- ◆ Affirmative action ensures a fair and open process in which everyone can participate.
- ◆ Affirmative action gets rid of the old boy's network by being inclusive of women and people of color.
- ◆ Despite impressive gains for women and people of color, America is not yet a color blind or gender neutral society.
- ◆ Wage differentials between men and women and domination of many professions by white males persist.
- ◆ Although white men comprise less than 40 percent of the labor force, they are 96 percent of corporate CEOs.

Who benefits from affirmative action?

- ◆ Small businesses which would not have an opportunity to successfully bid on public contracts benefit.
- ◆ Women and people of color who have been locked out of jobs like police officers and fire fighters benefit.
- ◆ We all benefit by added diversity affirmative action brings to our schools and our workplaces.

What would happen if I-200 passes?

- ◆ We could lose popular programs like:
 - 6-12th grade programs to encourage young girls to achieve in math and science
 - Apprenticeship programs that reach out to women and minorities for jobs in the building trades
 - Programs designed to encourage minorities to enter college

St. Peter's Episcopal holds 'the Big Take Out' on May 2

St. Peter's Episcopal Parish will hold its annual Sukiyaki Dinner (now known as "the Big Take Out") on Saturday, May 2 from noon until 5 p.m. at the Parish Hall, 1610 S. King Street, in Seattle. The event will feature both BBQ country-style spare ribs and Sukiyaki bento plates. All meals will be packaged "to-go," although seating will be available for those who wish to eat on the premises. Complementary beverages will be sold. The donation for either the Ribs or Sukiyaki bento plates is \$8.00. Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased ahead of time by call the St. Peter's Parish office at (206) 323-5250. All proceeds will be used to support St. Peter's outreach ministries.

- Outreach efforts to women and minority owned subcontractors seeking bids on public contracts
- ◆ Public agencies would no longer be required to do business with women and minority owned businesses
- ◆ Public agencies would no longer be required to reach out to women and people of color to expand the pool of applicants. Fewer women and people of color would then have the opportunity to be hired.
- ◆ Public universities would no longer be able to use race or gender as a criteria for university admissions. Fewer women and people of color would have an opportunity for a college education.

Doesn't affirmative action require quotas? What if they already have enough Asians?

- ◆ Legal affirmative action has no quotas. Quotas are already illegal. Defending affirmative action does not mean instituting quotas. It means more opportunities for us all.

'Evening Magazine' looking for owners of Panama Hotel trunks

Mimi Gan of KING-5 Evening Magazine (EM) is doing a story about the trunks of belongings left behind in the basement of the Panama Hotel in the International District by Seattle Japanese families prior to being shipped off to the concentration camps.

EM has been searching high and low for owners or descendants of the owners of these trunks. Many of the owners were contacted by Mr. Hori, the previous owner of the hotel, about 12 years ago so that they could reclaim their belongings. Unfortunately, he did not keep a record of the owners.

Gan would like to talk to people about their feelings when they retrieved their family's belongings. EM already shot some footage of the trunks and some of the items (pictures, books, magazines, household goods, etc) that are still in the basement and have not been claimed.

Anyone having any information about the trunks should contact Mimi Gan or Eunice Louie at KING-TV.

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is published on the second Thursday of the month by the Seattle Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, P.O. Box 18558, Seattle, Washington, 98118-0558; Office address: 316 Maynard Ave. South, Seattle, Washington, 98104. Phone: 622-4098
 Issue no: Volume 35, no. 4
 Editor: Bob Shimabukuro.
 Contributors: Cherry Kinoshita, Polly Shigaki, Jay Shoji, and Janice Yee.
 Bylined articles represent the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of Seattle Chapter JACL or the National JACL. The entire contents are copyrighted by Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter and no part of the publication may be printed without prior consent.

DEGUCHI & SUGAMURA, P.L.L.C.
 CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Paul Deguchi
 Certified Public Accountant

2707 Northeast 125th Street • Seattle, Washington 98125
 206.363.7665 • FAX: 206.363.7323

Membership

Chapter president, Janice Yee, and board delegate, Jeffrey Hattori are leading competing teams during this year's membership drive. They will be competing for (besides members) the right to choose a karaoke song for the loser to sing at JACL's annual holiday party in December. You can help one of them embarrass the other by joining today and indicating on your membership form to whom you would like your membership to be credited. Stay tuned for more updates on the 1998 Membership Challenge!

Welcome new and renewing JACL members!

Frank Abe*	Terry and Shirley Kameda	Joy Misako StGermain
Joel Dames	Larry Kazumura	Ken Shimada*
Gloria Fujii	Nancy Kloster	Ed Suguro
Budd Fukei	Parish Knox*	Noboru and Takako Taki
Norio Harui	Mitsuo Matsushita	William Tashima
Elaine Hayes**	Mitsuo Nakanishi	Shig and Mildred Tsutsumi
Yutaka Hirano	Nyla Nakano	Suma Yaki
Terry & Tammy Hosaka	Susan Otani	Ed and Maxine Yakushijin
Akio Hoshino	William Sata	Margaret Yanagimachi
Yukio Imada***	Jeanne Semura	Harry Yoshimura
Tsutomu and Yaeko Ito		Ai Hanada Moore

*New members

**Thank you for your donation to the Pacific Citizen

***Upgrade from Booster to Regular

Boosters

Dorothy Akagi	Fumiye Masunaga	Frances Ogino
Charles Aramaki	Barbara Matsudaira	Bessie Okada
Juline Asaba	Tebo Matsudaira	Mitsuko Osaki
Mitsuko Hashiguchi	Tak Miyabe	Kane Saito
Ruby Inouye	Mitsuko Morishita	Tom Sakai
Kimio Kamimae	Mike Murakami	Fudge Shiogi
Tsu Kanzaki	Marie Nakata	K. Catherine Sakura
Teruo Koba	Ukiye Nagai	Elizabeth Slee
Thomas Kobayashi	Yasumi Nagai	Hiroshi Suzuki
Frank Kobuki	Martha Nishitani	Pearl Yanagimachi
Tomoko Kuwanoe	Mary Fumi Numoto	Yvonne Kinoshita Ward
Aiko Kyono	Tak Oba	

Thank You!!!

The Seattle Chapter JACL Newsletter is sponsored, in part, by generous donations from:

*the SAFECO Corporation
 and
 Eli Lilly and Company*

Membership Categories

Individual	\$50
Couple	\$85
1000 Club/Century	\$70-\$140
Spouse	\$40
Lifetime	\$1,000-\$2,000
Student/Youth (up to 25 years of age)	\$20
Boosters (Seattle JACL only)	
Regular	\$20
Seniors	\$15

Questions should be directed to May Namba,
 , Seattle, WA 98117

Seattle Chapter JACL Membership application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (indicate whether day or eves/weekend): _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Please return to:
 Mav Namba, Membership chair
 Seattle, WA 98117

Thank you for your support!

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

OPTIONAL: Choose one to credit for membership
 Jeff's team
 Janice's team

